Policy for agricultural extension

170. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are finalizing a policy framework for agricultural extension;

(b) if so, whether the extension policy is likely to be operationalised during the Tenth Five Year Plan through the Centrally-sponsored scheme of Extension Support to States;

(c) if so, by when this policy is likely to be made applicable; and

(d) to what extent it would be helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Proposed to be operationalised in the Xth Plan.

(d) The proposed policy framework for Agricultural Extension envisages revamping the extension service to make it a multi-agency system harnessing the strengths of public sector, private sector, media and information technology. Further it lays emphasis on group approach, farmer participatory methodologies, bottom up/strategic planning procedures making the system more demand driven and farmer accountable.

Procurement of cotton in Gujarat

171. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no notable purchase of cotton in Gujarat, even though the prices range below the support price;

(b) whether developed countries like America are paying subsidy to farmers upto 40 per cent of the cost;

(c) whether there are no buyers in Vidarbha area of Maharashtra and threre was a rasta roko andolan;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and